Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PGOV, GR

SUBJ: LATEST MOVEMENT ON CONSTITUTION FRONT

REF: ATHENS 4085

1. IN COURSE PARLIAMENTARY SESSION EVENING JUNE 4 IT WAS DECIDED THAT PARLIAMENT WILL VOTE ON ADOPTION ENTIRE CONSTITUTION SATURDAY, JUNE 7, VICE PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED JUNE 6 DATE (REFTEL). ASSUMING ADOPTION, CONSTITUTION NOW SCHEDULED TO COME INTO EFFECT ON JUNE 11 (AND NOT REPEAT NOT JUNE 16 AS PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED). ACCORDINGLY, ELECTION OF PRESIDENT OF REPUBLIC WILL BE HELD NO LATER THAN AUGUST 11. CONSTITUTION, AS RESULT TEXTUAL CHANGES AND COSMETIC RESTRUCTURING OF ARTICLES, WILL NOW NUMBER 120 ARTICLES VICE 112 ARTICLES.

- 2. OPPISITION LEADERS SCHEDULED TO MAKE FINAL DECISION TODAY (JUNE 5) AS TO WHETHER THEIR PARTIES WILL BOYCOTT PARLIAMENTARY SESSION AT WHICH VOTE ON CONSTITUTION WILL TAKE PLACE. CURRENT FEELING MOST QUARTERS HERE IS THAT OPPOSITION WILL DECIDE TO BOYCOTT THAT SESSION.
- 3. COMMENT: OPPOSITION PARTIES' SENSITIVITIES RECEIVED FURTHER ABRASION EARLY HOURS JUNE 3 WHEN MAJORITY ND DEPUTIES THEN PRESENT AND VOTING REJECTED AN OPPOSITION AMENDMENT (IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHICH ND HAD PREVIOUSLY REPORTEDLY CONCURRED) WHICH SPECIFICALLY

PROSCRIBED ALL MEMBERS OF FORMER GREEK ROYAL FAMILY AND THEIR DESCENDENTS FROM EVER HOLDING PUBLIC POSITIONS OR BEING ELECTED TO PUBLIC OFFICE. WHEN AMENDMENT INTRODUCED BY ND SPOKESMAN STEPHANKIS, HEATED DEBATE ENSUED AMONG 40 OR SO ND DEPUTIES STILL PRESENT IN PARLIAMENT AT THAT HOUR (3 A.M.) WITH FINAL RESULT THAT TWO-THIRDS OF THOSE WHO FINALLY VOTED ON ISSUE REJECTED IT. IN ADDITION TO ATTACKING THIS ACT OF ND DEPUTIES ON ITS MERITS, OPPOSITION DEPUTIES AND JORNALS SUPPORTING OPPOSITION WERE "QUICK OFF THE MARK" TO SUGGEST THAT INTENSITY AND HEATEDNESS OF DEBATE SHOWED SPLIT IN ND BETWEEN MONARCHIST AND ANTI-MONARCHIST ELEMENTS. (AS NOTED ABOVE, HOWEVER, LESS THAN 40 OF THE 216 ND DEPUTIES WERE PRESENT AT TIME THIS CONTESTED VOTE.)

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